

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Yukimasa Saito et al.

Filed: HEREWITH

For: HEAT TREATMENT APPARATUS AND CLEANING METHOD OF
THE SAME

Prior Application

Serial No.: 09/448,879

Filed: November 24, 1999

Examiner: Jeffrie R. Lund

Art Unit: 1763

BOX Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R :

Please amend the above-identified divisional
application filed herewith, of pending prior Application Serial
No. 09/448,879 , filed November 24, 1999, as set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert after the title,

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a division of Application No. 09/448,879 , filed
November 24, 1999. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-16.

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment to a divisional
application of pending prior Application Serial No. 09/448,879 ,
filed November 24, 1999. In this amendment, claims 1-16 are
being canceled. Claims 17-24 remain.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are
allowable and that the present application is in condition for
allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of the present
application are therefore earnestly solicited.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicant's undersigned attorney requests the Examiner to telephone at the number provided below.

Dated: February 21, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



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